



Daily Report 43/2022

24 February 2022¹

Summary

- Since the early hours of 24 February, at various locations across Ukraine, the SMM observed a severely deteriorated security situation.
- The Mission heard multiple explosions, including multiple launch rocket system fire.
- The SMM saw military aircraft overflying Kherson and Kyiv cities.
- The Mission recorded a spike in shelling in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.
- In various locations across Ukraine, the SMM saw fewer people in the streets and long queues at shops, pharmacies, ATMs and petrol stations.

Kherson region

Throughout the day, the Mission heard multiple explosions around Kherson city, including seven rounds of outgoing multiple launch rocket system fire.

At 11:35, the Mission observed increased movement of the Ukrainian Armed Forces around Kherson city, including trucks, trailers, command and control vehicles and fuel tankers.

At 11:47, in Kherson city, the Mission observed 20 helicopters (Mi-28 and Mi-8) with Red Star markings overflying the city.

Odessa region

At around 05:20, the Mission heard multiple explosions near Odessa city and at least one explosion at around 11:00.

Lviv region

The Mission observed long queues at pharmacies and petrol stations.

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 17:00, 24 February 2022. All times are in Eastern European Time. The SMM is deployed to ten locations throughout Ukraine – Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipro, Chernivtsi, Luhansk and Kyiv – as per Permanent Council Decision 1117 of 21 March 2014.

Ivano-Frankivsk region

On the morning of 24 February, the Mission heard an explosion near Ivano-Frankivsk city, possibly in the direction of a military airport. In the city, the Mission observed long queues at pharmacies, petrol stations and ATMs.

A patrol previously dispatched to Zakarpattia region returned to Ivano-Frankivsk city. All other patrols have been suspended.

Kharkiv region

Throughout the day, while in Kharkiv city, the Mission heard multiple explosions, including at assessed ranges of 3-5km around the city centre.

Donetsk region

On the morning of 24 February, the Mission heard sporadic shelling on the outskirts of Kramatorsk (government-controlled, 83km north of Donetsk), Bakhmut (formerly Artemivsk, government-controlled, 67km north of Donetsk), Mariupol (government-controlled, 102km south of Donetsk) and Donetsk city (non-government-controlled).

At mid-day, while in Bakhmut, the Mission heard loud explosions at assessed ranges of 8-10km around the town. At 13:45, the Mission heard outgoing rounds of multiple launch rocket system fire at an assessed range of 3-5km north. In addition, the Mission observed tanks and military trucks in the town. At about 15:00, the Mission heard five outgoing explosions at an assessed range of 3-5km south-east.

At 16:21, while in Kostiantynivka (government-controlled, 60km north of Donetsk), the Mission observed a Ukrainian Armed Forces convoy comprising of 14 armoured personnel carriers (BTR-80) and 3 military trucks each towing a 2B9 *Vasilek* (82mm) towed mortar moving in the direction of Kramatorsk on road H-20.

Throughout the day, while in Kramatorsk, Mariupol and Donetsk city, the Mission heard distant shelling.

Mission members from SMM forward patrols bases in Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, government-controlled, 55km north-west of Donetsk) and Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk) relocated to SMM patrol hub in Kramatorsk, those from the SMM forward patrol base in Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) – to Donetsk, and those from the SMM forward patrol base in Volnovakha (government-controlled, 53km south of Donetsk) – to Mariupol.

The SMM cameras in Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km south of Donetsk) went offline at 06:35 and 08:51, respectively. At 12:00, the SMM camera in Shyrokyne resumed feeding footage to SMM's Technical Monitoring Team at Head Office in Kyiv city.²

² The SMM cameras in Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) and Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) have been non-operational since 18:10 on 21 February 2022 and 06:23 on 22 February 2022, respectively.

Dnipropetrovsk region

On the morning of 24 February, the Mission observed a calm situation in Dnipro. In the afternoon, the Mission observed closed department stores and long queues in front of pharmacies and ATMs, as well as reduced civilian movement in the city.

Chernivtsi region

On the morning of 24 February, the Mission observed crowds at ATMs and gas stations and low vehicular traffic in Chernivtsi city, as well as block posts on main roads.

Luhansk region

Throughout the day, the Mission heard multiple explosions while in Sievierodonetsk (government-controlled, 74km north-west of Luhansk), Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk). The Mission heard heavy shelling from the direction of Shchastia. In Sievierodonetsk, the Mission heard incoming heavy artillery rounds and rounds of multiple launch rocket system fire. Mission members moved to shelters in Shchastia and Stanytsia Luhanska due to heavy shelling. The Mission noted that the level of kinetic activity decreased closer to the end of the reporting period. Between 15:38 and 15:49, while in central Luhansk city, the Mission heard 12 distant undetermined explosions north and north-west.

In the late afternoon, while in Stanytsia Luhanska, the Mission observed six armoured personnel carriers (BTR type) heading in the direction of Shchastia.

Kyiv region

At about 04:35, the Mission heard 15 undetermined explosions from the area of Boryspil (32km east of Kyiv). At 05:15, it heard and saw an explosion in the area of the Zhuliany airport.

Between 13:00 and 14:00, the Mission continued hearing occasional explosions and saw jet aircraft and military helicopters overflying the city. At 13:30, while in Hostomel (24km north-west of Kyiv), the Mission observed at least two fighter jets (probably SU-25) flying overhead. At 13:25, while on the western edge of the Patona bridge in central Kyiv, the Mission observed three military aircraft flying east.

At around mid-day, the Mission heard sporadic explosion from an easterly direction. While in central Kyiv city, the Mission observed a column of at least 25 military transport vehicles.

At 14:15, while in central Kyiv city, the Mission heard about ten explosions heard from the area of Irpin (22km west of Kyiv), about 25km north-east of Kyiv city centre. The Mission also heard military aircraft flying overhead and observed two military vehicles moving east on Velyka Zhytomyrska street. At 16:15, the SMM observed an aircraft flying south over the western part of Kyiv city.

Throughout the day, the Mission observed armed law enforcement officers guarding government buildings. It also observed that some banks were closed and that some ATMs had run out of cash.